

Message Text

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17

ACTION IO-10

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, DA

SUBJ: ANTI-EC MOVEMENT RE-GROUPS

SUMMARY: THE DANISH ANTI-EC MOVEMENT CONVENED IN COPENHAGEN

NOV 16-17 TO ELECT A NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND TO SET

FUTURE STRATEGY. ALTHOUGH REVIVAL OF THIS ORGANIZATION IS

INTENDED TO CAPITALIZE ON DIFFICULTIES PRESENTLY FACING THE

EC, IT COINCIDED WITH RELEASE OF PUBLIC OPINION POLLS

INDICATING AN INCREASE IN POPULAR SUPPORT FOR THE EC.

END SUMMARY.

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1. THE ANTI-EC POPULAR MOVEMENT IN DENMARK HAS STEADILY DECLINED SINCE THE EC REFERENDUM IN OCTOBER 1972. STRANGELY ENOUGH, POPULAR OPPOSITION TO DANISH EC MEMBERSHIP HAS GROWN IN INVERSE PROPORTION TO THE DECLINE OF THE ANTI-EC MOVEMENT. TO CAPITALIZE ON THIS PUBLIC DISILLUSIONMENT AND TO PREPARE FOR THE EVENTUALITY OF BRITISH WITHDRAWAL, THE ANTI-EC MOVEMENT HELD A CONVENTION NOVEMBER 16-17 IN COPENHAGEN. 250 DELEGATES FROM ALL PARTS OF DENMARK AND THE FAEROE ISLANDS ATTENDED, REPRESENTING THE PARTIES WHICH ARE OFFICIALLY OPPOSED TO THE EC, THE COMMUNIST PARTY (DKP), THE SOCIALIST PEOPLES PARTY (SPP), AND THE JUSTICE PARTY (JP), AS WELL AS THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC (SDP) AND RADICAL (R) PARTIES WHICH, WHILE OFFICIALLY FAVORING DANISH EC MEMBERSHIP, HAVE PERMITTED THEIR MEMBERS INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM ON THIS ISSUE.

2. FOLLOWING THE TWO-DAY DEBATE THE CONVENTION ISSUED A STATEMENT WHICH CHARGED THAT THE DANISH DECISION TO ACCEDE TO THE EC IS NOT IRREVOCABLE, SINCE THE PRE-CONDITIONS FOR DANISH MEMBERSHIP HAVE PROVED TO HAVE BEEN FALSE. (REFERENCE HERE IS TO THE FACT THAT DURING THE EC REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN IN 1972 DANISH MEMBERSHIP WAS CONDITIONED ON BRITISH ACCESSION. WITH BRITAIN'S CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP NOW UNCERTAIN, THE ANTI-EC FRONT WISHES TO MAKE THE POINT THAT A NEW REFERENDUM SHOULD BE HELD IN CASE OF EVENTUAL BRITISH WITHDRAWAL.)

3. JENS MAIGAARD, SPP PARLIAMENTARIAN AND MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, WARNED AGAINST "THE DANGER THAT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WILL BE STRENGTHENED", CITING THE POSSIBILITY OF THE INTRODUCTION OF DIRECT ELECTIONS AND THE PARLIAMENT'S INCREASED INFLUENCE OVER THE EC BUDGET. PAUL OVERGAARD NIELSEN, RADICAL MP, CHARGED THAT DANISH EC REPRESENTATIVES WERE COMPROMISING TO A GREATER EXTENT WITH EC POLICIES THAN THEIR MANDATE FROM THE FOLKETING PERMITTED, DUE TO THE FACT THAT DENMARK WAS DEPENDENT UPON WEST GERMANY FOR SUPPORT OF THE DANISH KRONER. ERLENDUR PATTURSSON, AN MP FROM THE FAEROE ISLANDS, COMPLAINED THAT THE FAEROESE, AGAINST THEIR WISHES, HAD IN ACTUALITY BEEN FORCED INTO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMON MARKET.

4. RE-ELECTED TO THE 15-MAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WERE 12 INCUMBENT MEMBERS. THE PRESENT DIVISION OF SEATS IS AS FOLLOWS: COMMUNISTS 3 (PREVIOUSLY 5), SOCIALIST PEOPLES 2 (PREVIOUSLY 1), SOCIAL DEMOCRATS 1, JUSTICE PARTY 2 (PREVIOUSLY 1), RADICALS 3, AND AN INDEPENDENT LEFT SOCIALIST (VS) 1. THE REDUCTION OF

COMMUNIST MEMBERSHIP WAS A SURPRISE IN VIEW OF ADVANCE
SPECULATION THAT THE DKP WOULD PLAY AN EVEN LARGER ROLE
AS ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP FROM OTHER PARTIES DECLINED.

5. COMMENT: THE ANTI-EC FRONT WAS VASTLY ENCOURAGED
BY GALLUP POLL RESULTS LAST AUGUST WHICH SHOWED OVER
HALF THE DANISH POPULATION OPPOSING EC EMBERSHIP.
THIS FACT WAS EXPLOITED BY THE MOVEMENT'S LEADERSHIP
WHICH MADE MUCH OF THE "CURRENT WAVE OF OPPOSITION TO
THE EC AMONG THE DANISH POPULATION." WITH IMPECCABLE
TIMING, THESE STATEMENTS WERE COUNTERED BY TWO OPINION
POLLS RELEASED NOVEMBER 17 WHICH SHOWED A MARKED
INCREASE IN POPULAR DANISH SUPPORT FOR EC EMBERSHIP.
THE GALLUP POLL SHOWED 37 PER CENT IN FAVOR, 45 PER CENT
AGAINST AND 18 PERCENT DON'T KNOW. THIS WAS A 6 TO 8
PER CENT IMPROVEMENT OVER GALLUP'S AUGUST FIGURES,
WHICH WERE 31 PER CENT IN FAVOR, 53 PER CENT OPPOSED
AND WITH 16 PER CENT DON'T KNOW. THE OBSERVA POLL,
WHOSE SAMPLE HAS CONSISTENTLY BEEN MORE PRO-EC, REVEALED
A 42 PERCENT TO 42 PERCENT BALANCE, WITH 11 PER CENT
DON'T KNOWS AND 5 PER CENT NOT VOTING. THIS RESULT FROM
EARLY NOVEMBER CONTRASTED WITH THE LAST OBSERVA POLL
FROM MAY, 41 PERCENT FOR, 43 PER CENT AGAINST, 10 PER
CENT DON'T KNOW AND 6 PER CENT NOT VOTING.
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